

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

HENRY CLIFFORD BYRD, SR.,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	1:15CV131
)	
SHERIFF OF FORSYTH COUNTY,)	
et al.,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER AND RECOMMENDATION
OF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Petitioner, a pretrial detainee facing charges in Forsyth County, North Carolina, submitted a petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 for writ of habeas corpus by a person in state custody. Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Proceedings,¹ states:

If it plainly appears from the petition and any attached exhibits that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court, the judge must dismiss the petition and direct the clerk to notify the petitioner.

Pertinent to this case, a writ of habeas corpus may issue if Petitioner demonstrates that he is in state custody in violation of the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States. 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(3).

Petitioner sets out four potential claims for relief, all of which allege that state authorities submitted improper evidence to the grand jury that indicted Petitioner. Petitioner believes that this renders the indictments against him invalid. He seeks to have

¹These rules also apply to petitions brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. See Rule 1(b) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Proceedings.

this Court conduct a hearing on this matter, investigate the questioned evidence, determine the evidence and pending indictments to be invalid, and order his release.

Federal intervention in ongoing state court criminal proceedings offends the principles of state-federal comity and is only undertaken in extreme circumstances. Younger v. Harris, 401 U.S. 37 (1971). This Court should abstain where a prior ongoing state proceeding implicates an important state interest and the plaintiff will have an adequate opportunity to raise any federal claims in the state proceedings. Id. To avoid abstention, a plaintiff must demonstrate the absence of an adequate remedy in the state courts and the existence of irreparable injury without equitable relief. Middlesex Cnty. Ethics Comm. v. Garden State Bar Ass'n, 457 U.S. 423 (1982). Intervention is possible based on bad faith, harassment or extraordinary circumstances. Gilliam v. Foster, 75 F.3d 881, 904-905 (4th Cir. 1996). However, absent a possible double jeopardy violation, the cost and anxiety of defending against a criminal prosecution is not sufficient to support intervention based on irreparable injury. Id. Petitioner makes no allegations sufficient to justify intervention by the Court in the present case. His attacks on the evidence used to indict him are the type that he can raise during his defense against the charges in the state courts and, if necessary, pursue on appeal there. He makes no allegations of double jeopardy or the type of irreparable injury that would justify intervention. Overall, Petitioner states no claim for relief and his entire Petition should be denied.

To the extent that Petitioner subsequently filed a Letter Motion [Doc. #3] requesting further action by this Court, that Motion will be denied as moot in light of the above determination.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Clerk, at the point a judgment is entered, notify Petitioner of the filing, dismissal, and entry of judgment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Petitioner's Letter Motion [Doc. #3] be DENIED.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Petitioner's petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 be denied and that judgment be entered dismissing the action.

This, the 19th day of May, 2015.

/s/ Joi Elizabeth Peake
United States Magistrate Judge